

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for depigmenting of depigmenting~~ or bleaching human skin, body hair and/or hair of ~~the head~~ a head of a subject to lighten ~~the color~~ a color for purely cosmetic purposes comprising ~~the topical~~ topical application to the skin, ~~the~~ body hair and/or ~~the~~ hair of the head of said subject of a cosmetic composition comprising at least one oligonucleotide ~~containing~~ having between 7 and 25 nucleotides, capable of specifically hybridising with genes or gene products coding for protein kinase C beta-1 (PKC beta-1).

39-41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 38, wherein said composition comprises at least one oligonucleotide capable of specifically hybridising with any 5' to 3' regions, coding or not coding for genes coding for PKC beta-1.

43. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 38, wherein said composition comprises at least one oligonucleotide whose sequence is one of ~~sequences the sequences~~ SEQ ID NO. 1 to SEQ ID NO. 5 having the following significance:

SEQ ID NO.1: ACA CCC CAG GCT CAA CGA TG
SEQ ID NO. 2: TGG AGT TTG CAT TCA CCT AC
SEQ ID NO. 3: AAA GGC CTC TAA GAC AAG CT
SEQ ID NO. 4: GCC AGC ATC TGC ACC GTG AA
SEQ ID NO. 5: CCG AAG CTT ACT CAC AAT TT

44. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 43 ~~claim 38~~, wherein said composition comprises at least one oligonucleotide whose sequence is either SEQ ID NO. 1 or SEQ ID NO. 4.

45. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 43 ~~claim 38~~, wherein said composition comprises at least one oligonucleotide whose sequence is SEQ ID NO. 1.

46. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 38, wherein said composition comprises at least one oligonucleotide comprising one or more chemical modifications to its sugar moieties, its nucleobase moieties or its internucleotide skeleton, the aforesaid modifications conferring improved physicochemical characteristics to said oligonucleotide.

47. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 38, wherein said composition comprises at least one oligonucleotide of which ~~the sugar~~ a sugar moiety comprises a 2'-O-fluoro or 2'-O-alkyl substituent, ~~preferentially a 2'-O-ethyloxymethyl or 2'-O-methyl substituent~~.

48. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 38, wherein said composition comprises at least one oligonucleotide of which some ~~of the~~ phosphodiester groups of its internucleotide skeleton are replaced by phosphorothioate groups.

49. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 38, wherein said composition comprises at least one oligonucleotide of which some ~~of the~~ phosphodiester groups of its internucleotide skeleton are replaced by methylphosphonate groups.

50. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 38, wherein said composition comprises at least one oligonucleotide of which all ~~of the~~ phosphodiester groups are replaced by phosphorothioate groups.

51. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 38, wherein said composition comprises at least one oligonucleotide of which all ~~of the~~ phosphodiester groups are replaced by methylphosphonate groups.

52. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 38, wherein said composition comprises at least one oligonucleotide of which all ~~of the~~ phosphodiester groups are replaced in whole or in part by phosphorothioate groups and/or by methylphosphonate groups.

53. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 38, wherein said composition comprises at least one oligonucleotide to which is grafted a linear nucleic acid or peptide vector, or a circular plasmid vector.

54. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 38, wherein said composition comprises one or more active agents chosen from among an antisense oligonucleotide directed against tyrosinase gene expression products; an antisense oligonucleotide directed against tyrosinase-related-protein 1 (TRP-1) gene expression products; ellagic acid and its derivatives; resorcinol and its derivatives; vitamin C and its derivatives; pantothenate sulfonate and its derivatives; molecules interfering directly or indirectly with alpha-melanocyte stimulating hormone (a-MSH) or its receptor or with adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH); polyols such as glycerin, glycol or propylene glycol; vitamins; keratolytic and/or desquamating agents such as salicylic acid and its derivatives; alpha-hydroxyacids such as lactic acid or malic acid, alone or grafted; ascorbic acid and its derivatives; retinoids and carotenoids in liposomal preparation or not, such as retinaldehyde; retinol and its derivatives such as palmitate, propionate or acetate, beta-carotene; antiglycation agents and/or antioxidants alone or in association such as tocopherol and its derivatives, thiotaurine, hypotaurine, aminoguanidine, thiamine pyrophosphate, pyridoxamine, lysine, histidine, arginine, phenylalanine, pyridoxine, adenosine triphosphate; anti-inflammatory agents such as stearyl glycyrrhetinate; soothing agents and mixtures thereof; and chemical or

physical sun blocks such as the octyl methoxycinnamate, butylmethoxydibenzoyl-methane, titanium oxide and zinc oxide.

55. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 38, wherein the ~~oligonucleotide(s)~~ according to the invention ~~represent at least one oligonucleotide represents~~ 0.00001% to 10% of a total the total weight of the composition.

56. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 38, wherein said composition is presented in the form of an emulsion containing an oil, an emulsifying agent chosen from among fatty acid and polyethylene glycol esters such as PEG-20 stearate, and fatty acid and glycerin esters such as glycerin stearate, and an co-emulsifying agent.

57. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~the treatment~~ treatment of regional hyper-pigmentation by melanocyte hyperactivity such as idiopathic melasma, local hyper-pigmentation by benign melanocyte hyperactivity and proliferation such as pigmentary age spots (actinic lentigo), accidental hyper-pigmentation such as photosensitization or post-lesion healing in a subject in need thereof, comprising ~~the topical~~ topical application to the ~~hyperpigmented~~ hyper-pigmented skin areas of said subject of a topical pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one oligonucleotide ~~containing having~~ between 7 and 25 nucleotides, capable of specifically hybridising with genes or gene products coding for protein kinase C beta-1 (PKC beta-1).

58-59. (Cancelled)

60. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the topical application comprises application of the composition to the hair of the head.

61. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the topical application comprises application of the composition to the face.

62. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the application of the composition comprises application of a makeup.

63. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition comprises an SPF protective fluid.

64. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition further comprises at least one additional active agent that is a depigmenting substance.

65. (New) The method of claim 64, wherein the active agent is selected from substances that inhibit the activity of tyrosinase, an antisense oligonucleotide directed against tyrosinase gene expression products, an antisense oligonucleotide directed against tyrosinase-related-protein 1 (TRP-1) gene expression products, hydroquinone and its derivatives, placenary extracts, kojic acid, arbutin, iminophenols, association of carnitin and quinone, amide derivatives of amino-phenol, and derivatives of benzothiazole.

66. (New) The method of claim 64, with the proviso that the topical application to the skin, the body hair and/or the hair of the head does not comprise skin having psoriasis or skin cancer.